COUNCIL AGENDA: 4-21-15 **ITEM: 2.13** 



# Memorandum

**TO:** HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Toni J. Taber, CMC

City Clerk

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

**DATE:** 4-9-2015

SB 11 AND SB 29 (BEALL) – BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR **SUBJECT:** 

**CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS** 

# **RECOMMENDATION**

As recommended by the Rules and Open Government Committee on April 8, 2015 and outlined in the attached memo previously submitted by the Rules and Open Government Committee, consideration of a support position for SB 11 and SB 29 (Beall), pertaining to behavioral health training for California peace officers.

RULES COMMITTEE: 04-08-15

ITEM: G.6



# Memorandum

TO: RULES COMMITTEE

FROM: Councilmember Rocha

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

**DATE:** April 2, 2015

Approved

Don Kocha

Date

4-2-15

PH

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR SB 11 & SB 29 (BEALL) - BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR CALIFORNIA PEACE OFFICERS

## RECOMMENDATION

That the Rules Committee agendize Council consideration of taking a support position for SB 11 and SB 29 (Beall), pertaining to behavioral health training for California peace officers, for the April 21, 2015 City Council meeting.

### **ANALYSIS**

The existing California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) curriculum for prospective officers mandates 664 hours of training. This includes 72 hours on how to handle firearms and pepper spray; 40 hours for investigative report writing; 40 hours on fitness; 40 hours on driving; and 6 hours of training for how to interact with people who have developmental disabilities or mental illness.

SB 11 and SB 29, both initially introduced by Senator Jim Beall, propose additional training proven to reduce the negative interactions between peace officers and people suffering from intellectual disability or mental illness.

## SB 11 requires:

- 20 hours additional hours of universal evidence-based behavioral health classroom-training course in the Academy so that all officers can recognize, de-escalate and refer people with mental illnesses who are in crisis.
- Designates behavioral health training as a perishable skill under continuing education and mandates peace officers to take 4 hours of continuing education classroom-training course regarding persons with mental illness once every four years.

#### SB 29 requires:

- 40 hours of evidence-based behavioral health training for all Field Officer Trainers;
- An additional 20 hours of evidence-based behavioral health training for trainees in Field Training Program.

I believe both of these bills are of interest to the City. I ask the Rules Committee to move my recommendation forward to Council so that the Council may decide whether it wishes to take a position on them.

#### Timeline

Senator Beall introduced SB 11 in the 1st day of the legislative session on January 1st of this year. My office has been working with our intergovernmental affairs staff on tracking the bill's amendments, the formulation of SB 29, and SB 11 and SB 29's assignment to committee. The first of these bills to must make it out of committee by May 1st to be considered in this upcoming legislative session. This timeline for committee action is why I bring this issue forward to my colleagues today.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

- 1) Legislative Summary of SB 11
- 2) Legislative Summary of SB 29

# SB 11 (Beall & Mitchell)

# Behavioral Health Training for California Peace Officers Coauthors: Senator Hertzberg & Assemblymembers Chavez, Frazier, & Maienschein

#### **BACKGROUND**

Day by day there is a growing recognition throughout law enforcement nationwide of the importance of behavioral health training for officers.

The existing California Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) curriculum for prospective officers *mandates 664 hours* (16 weeks) of training. This includes 72 hours on how to handle firearms and pepper spray; 40 hours for investigative report writing; 40 hours on fitness; and 40 hours on driving -- but just six hours of combined training for people with physical and intellectual disabilities and mental health training.

#### NEED FOR THE BILL

Six hours of training is not enough. The lack of training has had deadly results. With better training, we can reduce injuries and save lives — both for people with mental health illnesses and officers.

According to POST representatives, there are currently 38 mental health training courses that have been certified by POST available statewide to law enforcement officers and dispatchers.

Although training resources exists, there is no standardized mental health training curriculum statewide.

The lack of uniformity creates a patchwork of training programs offered by California law enforcement agencies. Some agencies offer robust training programs while others offer far less. Every officer, from Susanville to San Diego, needs to be provided with the most current effective tools to interact safely with people with mental illnesses

especially given the frequency of contacts with people with a mental illness (POST estimates 10-15%).

#### THIS BILL

SB 11 responds to the growing public concerns by mandating additional evidence-based behavioral health training proven to reduce the negative interactions between peace officers and people suffering from a mental illness or intellectual disability.

## Specifically, SB 11 mandates:

20 hours additional hours of universal evidencebased behavioral health classroom-training course in the Academy so that all officers can recognize, de-escalate and refer people with mental illnesses who are in crisis.

Designates behavioral health training as a perishable skill under continuing education and mandates peace officers to take 4 hours of continuing education classroom-training course regarding persons with mental illness once every four years.

Furthermore, SB 11 calls for the training to address issues related to stigma and instruct officers on culturally appropriate procedures.

### **SUPPORT**

Disability Rights California California Correctional Supervisors Organization California State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police Los Angeles County Professional Peace Officers Association Long Beach Police Officers Association Sacramento County Deputy Sheriffs' Association Santa Ana Police Officers Association Steinberg Institute The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration

# KEY CONTACTS

Staff: Sunshine Borelli Sunshine.Borelli@sen.ca.gov (916) 651-4015

# **SB** 29 (**Beall**)

Field Training Program: Behavioral Training for CA Peace Officers
Coauthors: Senator Mitchell (Principal) & Assemblymembers Chavez, Frazier &
Maienschein

#### BACKGROUND

Day by day there is a growing recognition throughout law enforcement nationwide of the importance of behavioral health training for officers.

The existing California Peace Officer Standards and Training curriculum for officers does not mandate a prescribe number of hours of behavioral health training for peace officers in the Field Training program.

#### NEED FOR THE BILL

Increase behavioral health training in the Field Training program can reduce injuries and save lives—both for people with mental health illnesses and officers.

According to POST representatives, there are currently 38 mental health training courses that have been certified by POST available statewide to law enforcement officers and dispatchers.

Although training resources exists, there is no standardized mental health training curriculum statewide.

The lack of uniformity creates a patchwork of training programs offered by California law enforcement agencies. Some agencies offer robust training programs while others offer far less. Every officer, from Susanville to San Diego, needs to be provided with the most current effective tools to interact safely with people with mental illnesses especially given the frequency of contacts with people with a mental illness (POST estimates 10-15%).

#### THIS BILL

SB 29 is a companion bill to SB 11. Taken together, SB 29 and SB 11 responds to the growing public concerns by mandating additional evidence-based behavioral training proven to reduce the negative interactions between peace officers and people suffering from a mental illness or intellectual disability.

## Specifically, SB 29 mandates:

- Mandates 40 hours of evidence-based behavioral health training for all Field Officer Trainers;
- Mandates an additional 20 hours of evidencebased behavioral health training for new officers. Training must be completed during the employing department's field training and probationary period but in no case later than 24 months after employee's appointment as an officer; and
- Furthermore, SB 29 calls for the training to address issues related to stigma and instruct officers on culturally appropriate procedures.

SB 29 recognizes that new officers look-up to Field Training officers; and over time, Field Training Officers typically are promoted creating a steady flow of new officers to replace them who will need to be trained – a way to phase in behavioral health training in law enforcement agencies.

#### **SUPPORT**

Disability Rights California

The Arc and United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration Steinberg Institute

# KEY CONTACTS

Staff: Sunshine Borelli <u>Sunshine.Borelli@sen.ca.gov</u> (916) 651-4015